



Madison Valley NW Diversion and Washington Park Stormwater Storage Project

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDERS' COMMENTS FROM 1/28/09 PUBLIC MEETING AND WRITTEN COMMENT CARDS

Meeting Overview

On January 28, 2009, 18 community members attended a public meeting at The Bush School in Madison Valley to provide input to SPU's 60% design for Phase 1 - Expansion of the Above-Ground Stormwater Storage Facility at 30th Ave E. and E. John St.

SPU Program Manager Celia Kennedy provided an update on the artist selection for Public Art. She reported that Barbara Lynn and Erin Higbee have agreed to represent members of the community as advisors to the artist selection panel. The members of the artist selection panel are two artists and a landscape architect designated by the Seattle Arts Commission. Celia Kennedy and Landscape Architect Karen Kiest are also advisors to the panel.

Landscape Architect Karen Kiest presented themes for the 60% design based on input previously received from the community. The following is a summary of comments and questions on the 60% design received during the meeting:

Question: How durable is the material used for the space that may be under water?

Response: We have reviewed the materials. They won't flow away and the landscape should be fine when the facility fills up at a normal rate and the materials can be power-washed after a storm event.

Question: Once construction is underway, will you need to close off streets?

Response: We will not need to close off streets but we may need to cut into part of the street and will park a trailer by the construction site. Phase 1 construction will take approximately six months.

Question: Have you considered other mitigation like rain gardens?

Response: We have considered this but rain gardens do not solve the volume of flooding we are dealing with in this project.

Question: Where does the water go from the facility?

Response: There is a drain system at the bottom of the facility.

Question: How much water will we see in the facility on a regular basis?

Response: There will be no standing water in the system other than a small amount of natural ground water seepage allowed in the 'dry creek' bed. Currently, ground water

seepage is collected in a drain pipe in the bottom of the basin. This pipe will be blocked to allow the natural ground water seepage to surface in the 'dry creek' bed and flow toward and out the basin outlet drain (cage).

Question: What is the schedule for the project?

Response: For Phase 1, we hope to start construction in July 2009. For Phase 2, construction is targeted for 2010 to 2011.

Question: Where are the play areas?

Response: The southeast corner of the site will be a stone and sand garden which could be used for play. We also see the 'dry creek' bed with boulders for climbing as an area where kids could play.

Question: Can you ensure that the planting will not block homes on the east side of the facility?

Response: We are sensitive to this issue so we've created a design that is not a large screen blocking homes on the east side. We will work with you on the location of the plantings.

Question: Can conifers be planted around the site?

Response: Conifers are not a good choice for an area that requires a clear visual through the site. From previous public meetings and comments, many residents have strongly expressed the need for clear visuals through the site for safety reasons. Neighbors around the site also wanted to be able to see through the landscape in the facility.

Comment: There are too many trees in the design. Likes the way it is now because it is easy to see into the site. Don't want places where people can hide.

Response: We will review and modify the design to make sure residents can see through the trees.

Question: Will there be handrails along the path?

Response: Currently, there are no handrails designed along that particular path you are referring to and there is a way through the site that has a gentle slope which does not require handrails. On one part of another path, there is a short stairway that leads into the facility which will have handrails.

Question: Will there be lighting in the site?

Response: We do not plan to put lighting in the site because there will be no electricity in the stormwater facility for safety reasons.

Question: Can we keep some area where kids can sled in the snow? A lot of kids were sledding there when we had snow in December and it was great.

Response: There will be slopes like the current site where kids can sled.

Question: Where will the art element be?

Response: This will depend on the artist selected by the panel. We encourage you to talk to your community representatives who are advisors to the artist selection panel, Barbara Lynn and Erin Higbee, about your views on the art element.

Next Steps

The next meeting for Phase 1 of the project will be the pre-construction meeting likely to be held in June 2009. The next public meeting will be for Phase 2 of the project which will take place sometime in April-May 2009.

These notes have been posted on the project Web site, www.seattle.gov/util/MadisonValley
For questions about the 1/28/09 public meeting or these meeting notes, please contact Elaine Yeung at elaine.yeung@seattle.gov.